

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

D A I L Y   P R E S S   B U L L E T I N

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1) TUNNELS TO FREEDOM - WITHOUT COMPLEXES. ("Mivrak")

About a week ago an F.F.I. man revealed to an astonished party of pressmen the secret tunnel he and his comrades had been digging for many months in an attempt to gain freedom without waiting for the favour of a British amnesty.

We would not have touched upon this subject, that seems to have lost all political significance and is of a purely historic interest, but for a short letter to editor, published in to-day's "Palestine Post".

The author, an ex-warder of the Acre Prison, reveals in his letter that 43 Haganah prisoners were first to discover the secret passage, but instead of using it to regain their freedom, they reported their discovery - "for political reasons" - to prison authorities, who had the passage sealed.

As witnesses of this act of perverted heroism the author names Moshe Dayan (now a colonel) and some other commanders. Being neither competent for nor, for the moment, interested in a psychological study of the case, we shall leave aside both the object, with which the letter was written (to prove that Shmoulevitch was not the first to make the discovery), and the abject servility displayed by the Haganah "commanders" concerned, in reporting their discovery to that notorious sadist and murderer of prisoners, A.S.P. Grant, and proceed to deal with its political aspect.

From the political standpoint, this ludicrous affair is highly illuminating.

Political prisoners refuse escape "for political reasons" (?) and prefer to wait patiently for a lawful release by the hostile administration that has imprisoned them! In order properly to understand and evaluate this incident it should be

- 2 -

viewed in conjunction with Mr. Ben-Gurion's statement to the representative of the French News Agency (appeared in yesterday's papers), in which an almost identical language is used, an identical spirit and identical stupidity are evident.

It is immaterial for the purpose of our discussion who it was that discovered first the necessity of passing through the military tunnel on the way to freedom, Jabotinsky or... Ben-Gurion. It is equally unimportant at the moment who fought the anti-Imperialist war and put an end to the British rule, Yair and his men, or... "Hashomer Hatzair" and Mr. Oren, who is now chatting breezily in Warsaw on anti-Imperialism. What is important is the fact that both Moshe Dayan in Acre and David Ben-Gurion in the State of the Plain make the following announcement to prison officers, Grants and Bernadottes:

"Look, we have found a tunnel and can gain freedom. It is in our power to strike at the enemy and to release ourselves, but we prefer - for political reasons - not to use this way; we prefer to receive our release from Mr. Grant, or Mr. Gyles, or Mr. Bevin, or Mr. Bernadotte, or..."

"We would prefer to get a smaller state, but get it through an agreement", said Ben-Gurion.

Does not this statement smack of the same kind of political "wisdom" and Don Quixotism, that had moved Dayan and his comrades to refrain from gaining their freedom without Grant's leave? Is not Ben-Gurion's public disclosure of the secret a record of political and military stupidity?